

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1-50: (CANCELED)

51. (NEW) A temperature monitor for communicating to a user a heating stage of a food or beverage contained within a vessel with a rim and subjected to a heating process, the temperature monitor comprising:

- a housing;
- a temperature sensor connected to the housing and adapted to detect a temperature of the food or beverage and to send a temperature signal;
- a memory device substantially enclosed within the housing and adapted to store at least three temperature ranges, wherein the first temperature range corresponds to a “cool” heating stage of the heating process, wherein the second temperature range corresponds to a “ready” heating stage of the heating process, and wherein the third temperature range corresponds to a “hot” heating stage of the heating process;
- a control device substantially enclosed within the housing and adapted to receive the temperature signal from the temperature sensor, to compare the detected temperature with the temperature ranges, to determine the heating stage of the heating process of the food or beverage, and to send a heating stage signal;
- a display device connected to the housing and the control device and adapted to receive the heating stage signal and to display a first indicia that corresponds to the “cool” heating stage, a second indicia that corresponds to the “ready” heating stage, and a third indicia that corresponds to the “hot” heating stage, wherein the first, second, and third indicia are distinct;
- an audio device connected to the housing and the control device, and adapted to emit a first sound that corresponds to the “cool” heating stage, a second sound that corresponds to the “ready” heating stage, and a third sound that corresponds to the “hot” heating stage, wherein the first, second, and third sounds are distinct; and
- a support member coupled to the housing and adapted to engage against a rim of the

vessel.

52. (NEW) The temperature monitor of claim 51, wherein the temperature sensor includes a non-contact infrared temperature sensor adapted to sense the temperature of the food or beverage from a distance.

53. (NEW) The temperature monitor of claim 51, wherein the memory device is further adapted to store a fourth temperature ranges; wherein the fourth temperature range corresponds to a “cold” heating stage of the heating process; and wherein the display device is further adapted to display a fourth indicia that corresponds to the “cold” heating stage and that is distinct from the first, second, and third indicia.

54. (NEW) The temperature monitor of claim 51, wherein the support member is formed with a convex shape that facilitates engagement and sealing with the rim of the vessel and that facilitates engagement and sealing with a rim of a different vessel with a different diameter.

55. (NEW) The temperature monitor of claim 51, wherein the temperature monitor does not include any slender protrusions.

56. (NEW) A temperature monitor for communicating to a user a heating stage of a food or beverage contained within a vessel with a rim and subjected to a heating process, the temperature monitor comprising:

- a housing;
- a non-contact infrared temperature sensor connected to the housing and adapted to detect the temperature of the food or beverage from a distance and to send a temperature signal;
- a memory device substantially enclosed within the housing and adapted to store at least two temperature ranges, wherein the first temperature range corresponds to a “ready” heating stage of the heating process, and wherein the second temperature range corresponds to a “hot” heating stage of the heating process;
- a control device substantially enclosed within the housing and adapted to receive the temperature signal from the temperature sensor, to compare the detected temperature with the temperature ranges, to determine the heating stage of the heating process of the food or beverage, and to send a heating stage signal;
- a display device connected to the housing and the control device and adapted to receive the heating stage signal and to display a first indicia that corresponds to the “ready” heating stage and a second indicia that corresponds to the “hot” heating stage, wherein the first and second indicia are distinct; and
- a support member coupled to the housing and formed with a convex shape that facilitates engagement and sealing with the rim of the vessel and that facilitates engagement and sealing with a rim of a different vessel with a different diameter.

57. (NEW) A temperature monitor for communicating to a user a heating stage of a food or beverage contained within a vessel with a rim and subjected to a heating process, the temperature monitor comprising:

- a housing;
- a temperature probe coupled to the housing and adapted to detect a temperature of the food or beverage and to send a temperature signal;
- a memory device substantially enclosed within the housing and adapted to store at least two temperature ranges, wherein the first temperature range corresponds to a “ready” heating stage of the heating process, and wherein the second temperature range corresponds to a “hot” heating stage of the heating process;
- a control device substantially enclosed within the housing and adapted to receive the temperature signal from the temperature probe, to compare the detected temperature with the temperature ranges, to determine the heating stage of the heating process of the food or beverage, and to send a heating stage signal;
- a display device connected to the housing and the control device and adapted to receive the heating stage signal and to display a first indicia that corresponds to the “ready” heating stage and a second indicia that corresponds to the “hot” heating stage, wherein the first and second indicia are distinct; and
- a support member coupled to the housing and formed with a convex shape that facilitates engagement and sealing with the rim of the vessel and that facilitates engagement and sealing with a rim of a different vessel with a different diameter.

58. The temperature monitor of claim 57, wherein the support member is removably attached to the temperature probe.

59. The temperature monitor of claim 58, wherein the support member is slidably mountable to the temperature probe so as to enable the support member to be positioned at a plurality of locations along the length of the temperature probe.

60. (NEW) A temperature monitor for communicating to a user a heating stage of a food or beverage contained within a vessel with a rim and subjected to a heating process, the temperature monitor comprising:

- a housing;
- a temperature sensor coupled to the housing and adapted to detect a temperature of the food or beverage and to send a temperature signal;
- a memory device substantially enclosed within the housing and adapted to store at least two temperature ranges, wherein the first temperature range corresponds to a “ready” heating stage of the heating process, and wherein the second temperature range corresponds to a “hot” heating stage of the heating process;
- a control device substantially enclosed within the housing and adapted to receive the temperature signal from the temperature sensor, to compare the detected temperature with the temperature ranges, to determine the heating stage of the heating process of the food or beverage, and to send a heating stage signal;
- a display device connected to the housing and the control device and adapted to receive the heating stage signal and to display a first indicia that corresponds to the “ready” heating stage and a second indicia that corresponds to the “hot” heating stage, wherein the first and second indicia are distinct; and
- a support member coupled to the housing and adapted to engage against a rim of the vessel;
- wherein the temperature monitor does not include any slender protrusions.